

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. The core catcher enclosure for two Russian-supplied VVER-1200 reactors under construction in China has been mounted. The 156-tonne shell is part of the core catcher, which is designed to keep radioactive materials from being released in the case of a major catastrophe.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Core-catcher-casing-in-place-at-Xudabao-3-and-Tian>

2. Belgium's Doel 4 and Tihange 3 nuclear power plants may be able to operate beyond 2025 if certain safety enhancements are completed, according to the Federal Agency for Nuclear Control (FANC). The government, on the other hand, must make a quick choice on their long-term operation and build a global strategy with all parties concerned, according to the report.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Belgian-regulator-says-reactors-could-operate-beyo>

3. Orano Canada Inc's uranium mine and mill licence has been revised by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), allowing it to expand the JEB tailings management facility (TMF) at McClean Lake.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Regulator-authorises-expansion-of-Canadian-mill-ta>

4. As climate change pushes states in the U.S. to dramatically cut their use of fossil fuels, many are coming to the conclusion that solar, wind and other renewable power sources might not be enough to keep the lights on.

Nuclear power is emerging as an answer to fill the gap as states transition away from coal, oil and natural gas to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and stave off the worst effects of a warming planet. The renewed interest in nuclear comes as companies, including one started by Microsoft founder Bill Gates, are developing smaller, cheaper reactors that could supplement the power grid in communities across the U.S.

Source: <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/national-international/race-cut-carbon-emissions-splits-us-states-nuclear/2939459/>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. North Korea launched tactical guided missiles on Monday, according to state news agency KCNA, the latest in a series of recent tests that have highlighted the country's developing missile programmes despite delayed denuclearization talks.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/nkorea-tested-tactical-guided-missiles-monday-kcna-2022-01-17/>



2. Ukraine's ambassador to Berlin, Andrij Melnyk, said on Wednesday that Kiev wants Germany to give it with warships and advanced systems to safeguard the country's coastline amid the supposed threat of a military escalation with Russia.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/ukraine-wants-warships-missile-defense-systems-from-germany-russia/>
3. The UAE and South Korea have signed a preliminary agreement to buy Cheongung II surface-to-air missile systems from the latter. The agreement was reached a day before Yemen's Houthi militants killed three people in a fatal strike on an oil storage facility near Abu Dhabi airport.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/uae-cheongung-ii-missiles-to-thwart-houthi-attacks-on-vital-facilities/>
4. Israel's Arrow 3 anti-ballistic missile system was successfully tested outside the Earth's atmosphere on Tuesday morning, according to the Defense Ministry. According to Moshe Patel, head of the Defense Ministry's Missile Defense Organization, the trial demonstrated a variety of "breakthrough" capabilities for the missile defence system, which may be employed immediately by the Israeli Air Force.
Source: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-carries-out-test-of-arrow-anti-balistic-missile-system/>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. Tehran calls on Washington to 'announce its decisions on removing sanctions and the remaining issues,' predicting this will result in a 'lasting, reliable agreement'.
Source: https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-says-time-for-us-to-make-political-decisions-in-nuclear-talks/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter
2. Following talks to Ukrainian authorities in Kyiv and European officials in Berlin, US Vice President Joe Biden's top diplomat will meet with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Geneva this week to try to defuse a crisis with Moscow over Ukraine.
Source: https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/uss-blinken-visit-ukraine-following-russia-talks-2022-01-18/?taid=61e6ca3dd7b2470001793ef7&utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter
3. On Wednesday, security personnel in Kazakhstan's largest city Almaty shut numerous downtown streets and fenced off one of the city's squares as an opposition group planned to stage rallies, according to a Reuters correspondent on the scene.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/kazakhstan-security-forces-high-alert-almaty-amid-calls-fresh-protests-2022-01-19/>

4. On Tuesday, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan was quoted as saying that the thought of a Russian invasion of Ukraine was unrealistic and that he needed to talk to Russian President Vladimir Putin about the problem.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/turkeys-erdogan-says-russian-invasion-ukraine-not-realistic-ntv-2022-01-18/>

UN REFORMS

1. As part of a systematic effort by the Chinese government to crush democracy and civil society supporters, Fan Yiping and Hu Tianfeng were legally imprisoned on suspicion of "subversion of state power."

Source: <https://twitter.com/CECCgov/status/1483441554132025345>

2. At February 2020, Fang Bin was arrested for leaking a video of corpses in a Wuhan hospital in order to reveal "the real story that everyone needed to know" about COVID19 transmission.

Source: <https://twitter.com/CECCgov/status/1483046780866605063>

3. Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Representative James P. McGovern (D-MA), Chair and Cochair, respectively, of the bipartisan and bicameral Congressional-Executive Commission on China, sent a letter to United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet today, asking that her office publicly release its assessment of human rights violations in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) before the start of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics. In September 2021, the High Commissioner said that such a report was being finished in her office.

Source: <https://www.cecc.gov/media-center/press-releases/chairs-ask-un-high-commissioner-for-human-rights-to-release-xinjiang>

4. Three Lao women say they are being held against their will in the Chinese-run Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in northwestern Laos, where they came to find work as "chat girls" in a call center for Kings Romans Casino.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/laos/chat-girls-01182022172557.html>

5. On Tuesday, US legislators pushed the UN's human rights office to provide its evaluation of China's actions in Xinjiang before of next month's Beijing Winter Olympics, which the US government is boycotting diplomatically due to ongoing genocide in the province.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/us-lawmakers-call-un-uyghur-rights-report-before-chinas-olympics-2022-01-18/>

6. After rights groups expressed concerns about the safety of competitors if they protest at next month's Games, a Beijing 2022 official warned that behaviour by athletes that violates the Olympic spirit or Chinese standards might be punished.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/beijing-2022-official-says-athlete-protests-will-lead-punishment-2022-01-19/>

7. An internet watchdog has issued a security warning to athletes competing in next month's Winter Olympics in Beijing, claiming that an app expected to be widely used as part of the Beijing Olympics has security issues. All event attendees, including audience members, reporters, and athletes, will be compelled to download the MY2022 app, according to Citizen Lab's research.
Source: <https://www.newsweek.com/olympic-athletes-advised-take-burner-phone-china-required-app-has-security-flaws-1670557>
8. Under the cover of anti-corruption campaigns, China is abducting and harassing political dissidents and their families living in countries such as Australia, according to a human rights organisation. At least eight Australian residents appear to have been involuntarily deported to China by the ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to face punishment for suspected "economic crimes" in China, according to a recent study by the Spain-based NGO Safeguard Defenders.
Source: https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-01-19/china-operations-to-force-fugitives-back/100747234?utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=twitter&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web
9. On January 14, a group of 250 international human rights organisations, including the United Nations, released a joint statement expressing their disappointment with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' decision to accept China's bid to participate in the Beijing Winter Olympics.
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/uyghur/xewerler/bdt-kishilik-hoquq-01182022132150.html>
10. Officials announced on Tuesday that the body of a girl believed to be Venezuelan was discovered in the Rio Grande river between Mexico and the United States, marking the latest case of a migrant dying while attempting to enter the United States.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/venezuelan-migrant-girl-dies-crossing-river-between-mexico-us-2022-01-19/>
11. Mullah Hasan Akhund, Afghanistan's acting prime minister, called for international governments to recognise the country's Taliban administration on Wednesday, saying that all prerequisites had been met at a news conference in Kabul.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/afghan-acting-pm-akhund-calls-official-recognition-taliban-administration-2022-01-19/>
12. Guatemalan authorities said on Monday that they had deported over 600 migrants who had entered the nation in a caravan en route to the United States.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/guatemala-pushes-back-622-migrants-us-bound-caravan-2022-01-17/>
13. On Wednesday, Hong Kong activist Edward Leung, 30, was released from prison after using one of the most popular protest chants of the 2019 pro-democracy marches and the first slogan to be ruled illegal under a national security law.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/hong-kong-democracy-activist-edward-leung-released-prison-2022-01-19/>
14. Six civilians were killed this week by military airstrikes in eastern Myanmar's Kayah state, which prompted many to abandon the impacted districts in search of safety, according to one local rights group.
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/killed-01182022151701.html>

15. The European Commission announced on Tuesday that the EU has begun projects in Afghanistan totaling €268.3 million aimed at improving education, sustaining livelihoods, and protecting public health. According to the statement, the help will be provided through UN agencies functioning in Afghanistan.
Source: <https://twitter.com/TOLOnews/status/1483713966778241025>
16. At a conference in Kabul, UN envoy Deborah Lyons stated that the UN is working to assist Afghanistan's economy recover and that humanitarian aid is only a temporary answer. She stated that economic issues must be addressed on a fundamental level, and that women and girls play an important role in the economy.
Source: <https://twitter.com/TOLOnews/status/1483711430818152454>
17. The Taliban have played their part in deepening the crisis by forcing women out of their jobs. The Taliban have made it politically difficult for Joe Biden & other politicians to restart support to Afghanistan by decisions like barring girls from school said Heather Barr.
Source: <https://twitter.com/BBCYaldaHakim/status/1483398215496085515>
18. Alia Azizi has been in Taliban custody for the last 4 months, despite amnesty for the former officers. Her crimes are that she is a woman, a police officer, and a Hazara.
Source: <https://twitter.com/AGizabi/status/1483176624132702211>